

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 NEA-10 IO-10 ACDA-05 ISO-00 SAJ-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AF-06 /092 W

----- 076402

R 171930Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7930

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

CINCEUR

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL MINICH

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USIA WASHDC

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USIA FOR IBS, IEE, IPS, IOP/M

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AO, UR, US, XH, XF

SUBJ: SOVIET PRESS SUMMARY - DECEMBER 17, 1975

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1. SUMMARY:

-- PRAVDA'S WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT VASIL'YEV REPORTS IN SOME DETAIL ON ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS' TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE FAVORING THE NORMALIZATION OF TRADE WITH THE USSR (SEPTEL). THE PRESS ALSO REPORTS THE U.S. RATIFICATION OF THE 1973 U.S.-SOVIET CONVENTION ON TAXATION, AND THE SENATE HEARINGS ON MR. BUSH'S NOMINATION AS CIA DIRECTOR. ONE NEWSPAPER PICKS UP THE STORY ABOUT DISSENTION IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT OVER U.S. ACTIVITIES IN ANGOLA.

-- OTHER ANGOLA ITEMS REPORT SUCCESSES BY THE SOVIET-BACKED "GOVERNMENT," AND RECOGNITION OF IT BY THE SUDAN.

-- PRAVDA CARRIES THE TEXT OF THE COMMUNIQUE ON THE EAST EUROPEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING IN MOSCOW (SEPTEL). THE GROUP WAS RECEIVED BY POLITBURO MEMBER KIRILENKO. THE ECPC WORKING GROUP IS MEETING IN EAST BERLIN WITH SOME SIGNIFICANT ABSENTEES.

-- ON THE MIDDLE EAST, THE COMMUNIQUE REVERTS TO THE STANDARD SOVIET FORMULA FOR AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT CONSISTING OF THREE BASIC POINTS, BUT ADDS A CALL FOR A MORE ACTIVE MID-EAST ROLE BY THE UNSC "AND OTHER" UN ORGANS.

-- A PRAVDA COMMENTARY OPPOSES THE RELEASE OF RUDOLF HESS (SEPTEL). END SUMMARY.

2. U.S. PRAVDA REPORTS (FROM TASS) THE SENATE RATIFICATION OF THE U.S.-SOVIET CONVENTION ON TAXATION, SIGNED DURING BREZHNEV'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON IN 1973. A SHORT TASS ITEM ON THE BUSH CONFIRMATION HEARINGS SAYS THAT HE REFUSED TO RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE CIA MIGHT "TAKE PART" IN FUTURE COUPS OR OTHER SUCH ACTIVITIES. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA IS THE FIRST CENTRAL NEWSPAPER TO REPLAY STORIES FROM WASHINGTON ON DISSENTION IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT OVER "U.S. INTERVENTION" IN ANGOLA. THE SPLIT, SAYS THE TASS REPORT, "FORCED" THE RESIGNATION OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY DAVIS.

3. ANGOLA. ON ANGOLA ITSELF, THE MEDIA REPORT FURTHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUCCESSES BY THE "GOVERNMENT" SIDE AGAINST "INTERVENTIONISTS." THE SOVIETS HAVE NOW ALMOST CEASED TO REFER TO THE "MPLA," AND REFER CONSISTENTLY TO THE "PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA." PRAVDA REPORTS THAT SUDAN RECOGNIZED THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA.

4. EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTY CONFERENCE (ECPC). PRAVDA CARRIES A TASS REPORT THAT THE ECPC WORKING GROUP HAS MET IN

EAST BERLIN TO WORK FURTHER ON THE DOCUMENTS FOR THE CONFERENCE. THE LIST OF PARTICIPANTS WAS NOTABLE FOR THE ABSENCE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BRITISH, IRISH, NORWEGIAN, SAN MARINESE, SWILL AND TURKISH PARTIES. THE SOVIETS WERE REPRESENTED BY ZAGLADIN, PONOMAREV'S DEPUTY IN THE CC SECRETARIAT'S INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

5. MIDDLE EAST. THE COMMUNIQUE OF THE EAST EUROPEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS' TWO-DAY MEETING APPEARED TO DEMONSTRATE WHAT THE SOVIETS HAVE IN MIND WHEN THEY ARE NOT ENCUMBERED BY ARABS WITH DIVERGENT VIEWS. THE COMMUNIQUE REVERTED TO THE STANDARD THREE-POINT SOVIET FORMULATION ON THE CONDITIONS NECESSARY FOR A MID-EAST PEACE: ISRAEL'S WITHDRAWAL TO 1967 BOUNDARIES, PALESTINIAN RIGHTS, AND SECURITY FOR "ALL STATES" IN THE REGION. THE CALL FOR CONVENING THE GENEVA MEPC FOLLOWED THE FORMULA OF THE NOV 9 PROPOSAL AND THE COMMUNIQUE REAFFIRMED "APPROPRIATE" UNSC AND GA RESOLUTIONS. THE ONLY NOTABLE VARIATION IS THE CALL FOR A MORE ACTIVE ROLE FOR THE SECURITY COUNCIL "AND OTHER" (UNSPECIFIED) UN ORGANS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PRESS SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MOSCOW18046
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750439-0523
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751232/aaaabbri.tel
Line Count: 135
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <25 AUG 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET PRESS SUMMARY - DECEMBER 17, 1975 LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
TAGS: PFOR, AO, UR, US, XH, XF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006